

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

in re application of : Confirmation No. 5484

Teruo MARUYAMA et al. : Docket No. 2004\_0220A

Serial No. 10/776,278 : Group Art Unit 3753

Filed February 12, 2004 : Examiner

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DISCHARGING FLUID

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- [X] each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003),
- each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/\_\_\_\_\_; and/or
- [] each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No.
- 1a. [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) [] the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or
- (2) [] the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.
- 1c. [] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

- 2. It is hereby certified
  - a. [] that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
  - b. [] that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

- 3. [] Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
- 4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
  - a. [] a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b. [] a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c. [X] the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at pages 2, 14-15, 32-33, 38, 51, 77 and 111,
  - d. [X] the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
  - e. [X] the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

JP 2002-1192 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,558,127; JP 2002-301414 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,679,685; and JP 2004-141866 corresponds to U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0118865.

5. [] A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Teruo MARUYAMA et al.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Teruo MARUYAMA et al.				
(Use several sheets if necessary)  Date Submitted to PTO: July 7, 2004				FILING DATE February 12, 2004				
			U	S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE APPROPRIAT	IF FE
	AA	6,558,127	5/2003	Maruyama et al.				
	AB	6,679,685	1/2004	Maruyama et al.				
	AC	2004/0118865	6/2004	Maruyama et al.				
	AD							
	AE							
	AF							
	AG							
	AH							
	AI							
			FOR	EIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS		· · ·		
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATIO YES I	NO
	AJ	2000-167467	6/2000	JP			Abstract	
	AK	2002-1192	1/2002	JP				
	AL	2002-301414	10/2002	JP				
	AM	2004-141866	5/2004	JP				
	AN							
		OTHER	R DOCUMENT(S)	(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertin	ent Pages, Etc.)			
	AO							
	AP							
	AQ							
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